

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1090

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Pamela Rowland-Griffin on her selection as 2010 Hawkins County Teacher of the Year for grades 5-8.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Rowland-Griffin is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Rowland-Griffin has recently been selected Teacher of the Year for Bulls Gap School by Hawkins County Schools, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, along with other distinguished Hawkins County teachers, Ms. Rowland-Griffin was recently honored at the Hawkins County School System's Teacher of the Year Banquet; and

WHEREAS, at the gathering, Hawkins County Schools feted teachers selected as Teacher of the Year at their respective schools, with winners also selected and announced for three divisions: kindergarten through fourth grade, fifth through eighth grade, and ninth through twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, each school within the system selected its own recipient, after which a committee from the Central Office staff evaluated the school winners, following standards established by the Tennessee Department of Education, in order to determine the three division Teachers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a truly capable educator, Ms. Rowland-Griffin has taught for almost three decades; for the past nine years, she has served as a special education teacher for the sixth through eighth grades at Bulls Gap School; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Ms. Rowland-Griffin graduated from Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary and Special Education; she went on to earn her Master of Arts in Education from the University of South Carolina in 1980, concentrating in special education and learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Griffin has spent the majority of her career teaching special education and learning disabilities in a resource setting; before coming to Hawkins County, she taught at Windsor Elementary School in Columbia, South Carolina; Saint Dominic's Catholic School in Kingsport, Tennessee; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools in North Carolina; Oakmont Elementary School Township in Haverford, Pennsylvania; and Albermarle County Schools in Charlottesville, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, during her exemplary tenure at Bulls Gap School, she has developed a summer reading enrichment program, which ran from 2000-2005; helped develop the sixth-grade language arts pacing guide for Hawkins County Schools; and served on the language arts textbook selection committee, the School Improvement Plan, and the School Wide Positive Behavior Support Team, for which she has been a Core member; and

WHEREAS, she has also attended the State Special Education Conference for nine years, as well as various workshops and conferences on subjects such as inclusion and teaching strategies; she has served as the Student Council Sponsor for six years, during which the Student Council has raised \$2,500 for the Red Cross for tsunami victims and sponsored the Hike for Haiti Dinner and Dance, which raised \$5,800; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Rowland-Griffin has earned the respect and admiration of her peers through her meritorious service and her dedication to her students while exuding a tireless enthusiasm and a willingness to try new and innovative methods in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Rowland-Griffin lends her considerable talents to numerous professional organizations, including the NEA, TEA, and HCA; she has been a member of the State Education Association in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rowland-Griffin has devoted much of her spare time to community service through participation in the Women's Symphony Orchestra; Kingsport City Schools' PTA, for which she served as President at Washington Elementary and John Sevier Middle School; Triad Area Mothers of Multiples; Habitat for Humanity; the American Cancer Society Fresh Start Program, for which she has served as Facilitator; Special Care Nursery-Parents Supporting Parents, for which she has served as Representative; and the Hawkins County Cancer Support Group; and

WHEREAS, believing that providing service where our strengths lie is the key to living Christian faith, Ms. Rowland-Griffin is an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Daughters of the King, the small-group Bible study at Hope Community Church, and the International Bible Study Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, Pamela Rowland-Griffin is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pamela Rowland-Griffin epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Pamela Rowland-Griffin on her selection as 2010 Hawkins County Teacher of the Year for grades 5-8, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.